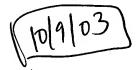
WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:



(1.) (A method of redistributing a medication, the method comprising the steps of:

- a) receiving a request to fill a prescription for the medication of a patient serviced by a patient care facility; ()
- b) assembling unit doses of the medication based upon the prescription, each of the unit doses being individually identified with a lot number and an expiration date;
- c) distributing the assembled unit doses to the patient care facility; $\mbox{hud}\,\mbox{\it V}$
- d) receiving an unused portion of the unit doses from the patient care facility;
 - e) storing the unit doses; and
- (f) redistributing the unit doses within ar indicated expiration date.
- 2. The method of Claim 1 wherein step b) comprises:
 - packaging each of the unit doses
 individually; and
 - 2) indicating the lot numbers and the expiration dates on each of the respective packaged unit doses.

- 3. The method of Claim 2 wherein the indicated lot numbers and the expiration dates on each of the individually packaged unit doses are different from each other.
 - 4. The method of Claim 1 wherein step c) comprises:
 - obtaining a unit dose card with a medication receptacle;
 - 2) inserting the unit doses into the medication receptacle of the unit dose card; and
 - 3) enclosing the medication receptacle of the unit dose card for distribution to the patient care facility.
- 5. The method of Claim 4 wherein the medication receptacle is formed separately with the unit dose card.
- 6. The method of Claim 5 wherein the medication receptacle is a bag attached to the unit dose card.
- 7. The method of Claim 4 wherein the medication receptacle is formed unitarily with the unit dose card.
- 8. The method of Claim 7 wherein the unit dose card is an envelope and the medication receptable is a pouch of the envelope.
- 9. The method of Claim 4 wherein step 3) further comprises:
 - i) indicating patient information on the unit dose card; and

- ii) indicating prescription information on the unit dose card.
- 10. The method of Claim 1 wherein step d) further comprises:
 - 1) identifying an amount of the unused portion of the unit doses;
 - 2) completing a unit dose card provided with the distributed unit doses to record the identified unused portion of the unit doses; and
 - 3) crediting the patient care facility for the identified unused portion of the unit doses.
- 11. The method of Claim 1 wherein step e) further comprises removing select ones of the unit doses from storage based upon the lot numbers.
- 12. The method of Claim 1 wherein step e) further comprises removing select ones of the unit doses from storage based upon the expiration dates.
- medication, the method comprising the steps of:
 - the medication of a patient serviced by a patient care facility;
 - (b) b) assembling unit doses of the medication based upon the prescription, each of the unit doses being



individually identified with a lot number and an expiration date;

(()c) distributing the assembled unit doses to the patient care facility;

(d)d) receiving an unused portion of the unit doses from the patient care facility;

 $(\chi())$ e) identifying an amount of the unused portion of the unit doses; and

(d3)f) crediting the patient care facility for the identified unused portion of the unit doses to mitigate the medication cost of the medication.

2-14. The method of Claim 13 wherein step b) comprises:

- packaging each of the unit doses
 individually; and
- 2) indicating the lot numbers and the expiration dates on each of the respective packaged unit doses.
- 3-15. The method of Claim 14 wherein the indicated lot numbers and the expiration dates on each of the individually packaged unit doses are different from each other.
- $\sqrt{-16}$. The method of Claim 13 wherein step c) comprises:
 - obtaining a unit dose card with a medication receptacle;

- 2) inserting the unit doses into the medication receptacle of the unit dose card; and
- 3) enclosing the medication receptacle of the unit dose card for distribution to the patient care facility.
- \int -17. The method of Claim 16 wherein the medication receptacle is formed separately with the unit dose card.
- U 18. The method of Claim 17 wherein the medication receptacle is a bag attached to the unit dose card.
- χ 19. The method of Claim 16 wherein the medication receptacle is formed unitarily with the unit dose card.
- G-21. The method of Claim 16 wherein step 3) further comprises:
 - i) indicating patient information on the unit dose card; and
 - ii) indicating prescription information
 on the unit dose card.
- 22. The method of Claim 13 wherein step d) further comprises:
 - (0)1) storing the unused portion of the unit doses; and

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- removing select ones of the unit doses from storage based upon the lot numbers.
- 23. The method of Claim 13 wherein step d) further comprises:
 - $(\ell)_1)$ storing the unused portions of the unit doses; and
 - (2-2) removing select ones of the unit doses based upon the expiration dates.
 - 24. The method of Claim 13 wherein step e) comprises:
 - separating a unit dose card with
 provider's and facility's card portions from the
 unit doses; and
 - 2) recording the amount of the unused portion of the unit doses on the provider's and facility's card portions of the unit dose card.
- 25. The method of Claim 24 wherein step 2) further comprises:
 - i) separating the provider's and facility's card portions of the unit dose card;
 - ii) retaining the provider's card
 portion of the unit dose card; and
 - iii) sending the facility's card portion
 of the unit dose card to the patient care
 facility.

- 26. The method of Claim 25 wherein the unit dose card is perforated between the provider's and facility's card portions.
- $(\sqrt{3})$ 27. The method of Claim 13 wherein step f) comprises reimbursing the patient care facility for the identified unused portion of the unit doses.
- (8) 28. The method of Claim 13 further comprising:
- g) redistributing the unit doses within an indicated expiration date.